consisting of xanthan gum and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (HPMC) as a therapeutically active agent in an amount effective to treat inflammatory bowel disease, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or vehicle.

2. (Twice Amended) The DRO pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1, wherein the polysaccharide is xanthan gum.

3. (Twice Amended) The DRO pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1, wherein the polysaccharide is HPMC

4. (Twice Amended) The DRO pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1, wherein the polysaccharide is present as the sole therapeutically active ingredient.

6. (Twice Amended) The DRO pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1, said composition being an enteric coated dosage form adapted to release its contents within the region of the jejunum to the colon.

8. (Twice Amended) The rectally administrable pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 29 which is a liquid enema or foam enema.

9. (Twice Amended) The rectally administrable pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 30, which is a liquid enema containing xanthan gum in a concentration of about 0.4 to about 2 % w/w (based on the composition).

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10. (Twice Amended) The rectally administrable pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 30, which is a foam enema containing xanthan gum in a concentration of about 1.4 to about 2.5 % w/w (based on the composition).

11. (Twice Amended) The rectally administrable pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 32, which is a liquid enema containing HPMC in a concentration of about 1 to about 20 % w/w (based on the composition).

12. (Twice Amended) The rectally administrable pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 32, which is a foam enema containing HPMC in a concentration of about 2.5 to about 25 % w/w (based on the composition).

13. (Twice Amended) The rectally administrable pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 29, wherein the polysaccharide is xanthan gum in an amount of about 400 to about 2000 mg per unit dose.

14. (Twice Amended) The rectally administrable pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 29, wherein the polysaccharide is HPMC in an amount of about 1 to about 20 g per unit dose.

15. (Twice Amended) The DRO pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 1 in unit dose form containing about 400 to about 2000 mg of the polysaccharide per unit dose.

22. (Twice Amended) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) comprising contacting the diseased mucosa of the gastro-intestinal tract with a therapeutic amount of a polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of xanthan gum and hydroxypropylmethyl-cellulose (HPMC).

Please add the following new claims 29-41:

- - 29. A rectally administrable pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prophylaxis of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), said composition comprising a polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of xanthan gum and hydroxypropyl-methylcellulose (HPMC) as the sole therapeutically active agent in an amount effective to treat inflammatory bowel disease, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or vehicle.

30. The rectally administrable pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 29, wherein the polysaccharide is xanthan gum.

31. The rectally administrable pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 30, which is a liquid enema containing xanthan gum in a concentration of about 0.4 to about 2 % w/w (based on the composition).

32. The rectally administrable pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 29, wherein the polysaccharide is HPMC.

33. A rectally administrable pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prophylaxis of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), said composition comprising hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (HPMC) as a therapeutically active agent in an amount effective to treat inflammatory bowel disease, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or vehicle.

34. The rectally administrable pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 33, wherein the HPMC is present as the sole therapeutically active ingredient.

35. The rectally administrable pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 33, which is a liquid enema containing HPMC in a concentration of about 1 to about 20 % w/w (based on the composition).

36. The rectally administrable pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 33, which is a foam enema containing HPMC in a concentration of about 2.5 to about 25 % w/w (based on the composition).

37. The rectally administrable pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 33, wherein the HPMC is present in an amount of about 1 to about 20 g per unit dose.

38. The liquid enema according to Claim 27, wherein the xanthan gum is present as the sole therapeutically active ingredient.

39. The liquid enema according to Claim 27, wherein the xanthan gum is present in an amount of about 400 to 2000 mg per unit dose.

40. The foam enema according to Claim 28, wherein the xanthan gum is present as the sole therapeutically active ingredient.